

PERCIK, Wolf
25 June 1901 -

Wolf Percik was born in Sosnowice in Poland, a Russian subject. His parents moved to Buenos Aires in 1912 but returned to Europe in 1914, stopping in London where the family settled. Percik attended Marlbone Grammar School in London before being apprenticed to AW Moore, FRIBA, for three years. During his third year he joined the Architectural Association School and received a Post Graduate Prize at end of 3rd year and completed and passed the examinations for the Diploma a few months before the age of 21 in 1922. In 1923 he became a naturalised British subject and obtained diploma on 24 November 1924. In April 1922 he started work in Sir Herbert Baker's office (his ARIBA nomination papers (1925) state June 1922) and worked there until 1933, during the period of Depression. The work in Baker's office included Barclays Bank, Glyn Mills Bank in Fenchurch St, the Bank of England, and the Secretariat Buildings in New Delhi; he was in charge of the circular Houses of Parliament in New Delhi for the last two years until completion; he found Baker's partner AT SCOTT, a fine architect and an admirable person for whom to work. In 1925 he was elected an Associate member of the RIBA.

Percik left Baker's office in 1933 and came to South Africa, arriving in Johannesburg in December 1933. He joined the ISAA in 1934 and set up practice on his own account in Johannesburg, he practised alone until 1960, entering into partnership from 1960 to 1962 and then continuing on his own until his retirement in about 1975. Percik also studied town planning under Professor PEARSE and obtained Diploma Town Planning from the University of the Witwatersrand in August 1946. Among other works, Percik was responsible for the design of a number of houses, including his own in Eckstein St, Observatory Extension (1946); he designed the Ambassador Hotel (1946/7) "blueprint for the future" (Hotel Review 1947), both these buildings were in Johannesburg; a factory near Germiston, for knitting, wool processing and dyeing, where building regulations were altered to permit rooms to be built for special purposes without window ventilation, he designed a further clothing factory also near Germiston, and in Johannesburg a biltong factory for Mr Cocotas in Fordsburg (n.d.) and Lucy's Motors, a Fiat agency with 100' steel roof spans and no columns internally. Percik was the architect responsible for the first nursery school next to the Yeoville synagogue and for a number of other nursery schools; Richard Neutra in 1966 wrote Percik a letter of congratulations on the Hebrew Nursery School at Springs. Percik was an innovative designer who approached the requirements of each job from a practical angle, several times his sensible solutions required changes in the building bye-laws and regulations.

ARIBA 1936; ISAA 1934; TPIA 1934

(ARIBA nom papers (1934) 3865; ISAA mem list; Katz 1990; Percik 1990; SAAR Jan 1934:23; SAAR Feb 1934:65)

Benoni:

Proposed shops, offices, flats, stand 1134 (SAB May 1934:41) 1934
Johannesburg: Parking garage, Marshall St (SAB Apr 1935:lxxxvi) 1935
Castle Garage, Booyens (now altered) (Percik 1990) 1936
Goldfields Confectionary, Soper Rd (Percik 1990) 1936
Nr Vereeniging: Jackson's Drift Hotel (Percik 1990) 1936